



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION
UNIT 24309
APO AE 09096



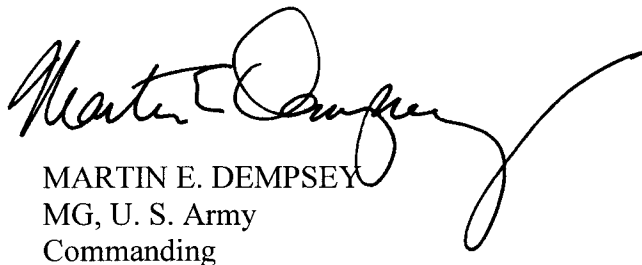
AETV-THZ-DS

16 November 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Thanksgiving Holiday Safety Message

1. As we observe this Thanksgiving Holiday and give thanks for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us, and our nation, I want to remind you that your safety is of paramount importance and that you must exercise caution as you celebrate this holiday.
2. The Thanksgiving Holiday weekend is a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends and for European travel. However, when making your travel plans, remember that privately owned vehicle (POV) accidents continue to claim the lives of our soldiers at an alarming rate. The leading causes of these fatalities are driver fatigue, speeding, drinking and driving, the failure to use seatbelts and appropriate child restraints.
3. Commanders must focus pre-holiday safety briefings on mitigating these risks. Increase situational awareness of driving European highways, proper trip planning, seat belt laws, driving under the influence, the dangers of "black ice" and winter driving techniques. Oak Tree counseling is mandatory and must be focused at the lowest levels on those most at risk. Commanders will ensure that junior leaders and first-line supervisors fully understand and implement oak tree counseling with their soldiers. Relevant materials may be obtained by contacting the Division Safety Office at DSN 337-4833/5, or visiting the 1 AD Safety Web Page at: http://www.1ad.army.mil/safety/a_safety.htm.
4. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.
5. Iron Soldiers!



MARTIN E. DEMPSEY
MG, U. S. Army
Commanding

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